

pick up a butter knife or something and fix him up right there on the spot.

□ 1600

It is a really humorous story that I enjoy his telling every time we are together at an event. Senator COATS has a great sense of humor. While his time in the Senate has come to an end, I am also confident he will continue to be a voice and an advocate for the issues he cares about most. Our State and our country are lucky to have benefited from the service of a great man like Senator DAN COATS.

I wish DAN and Marsha all the best.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), who represents the Sixth District.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, when given the opportunity to say something nice about DAN COATS, I didn't want to pass it up. If I could give one word to describe U.S. Senator DAN COATS, it would be "Hoosier." He is a person of grace and humility, hard work and humor. He never worried about who got credit, loved his country, and made the sacrifices through his life and career to make our country better.

I am honored to call DAN a friend, and I appreciate his mentorship of our entire delegation in the time that I have had an opportunity to serve here. I suspect DAN's service for our country isn't quite over yet, and I look forward to whatever he does next.

One of the other great things about DAN COATS is he is a family man. I certainly wish DAN, Marsha, and their entire family a great future.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is right. I don't know if DAN COATS will ever be able to retire. I know he wants to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), who is from the Third Congressional District in the northeast.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand here in front of this House and this body to honor our Senator, DAN COATS, who served Indiana in so many different capacities. I actually have the privilege of representing his district, the Third District in northeast Indiana.

We have such a long line of great leaders from northeast Indiana who have served here in Washington from our State, and DAN COATS, of course, exemplified a man of character, humbleness, and leadership. He followed former Vice President Dan Quayle.

I also would like to recognize him as well. He is another man who showed leadership for our State here in Washington, D.C.

Both of those gentlemen have been heroes and models for me growing up, watching both of them as they took time to come to Washington and show what Hoosier leadership is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for honoring them today.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

In closing this out, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Indiana has produced no shortage of great statesmen, as we reflected on this last half hour, and Senator DAN COATS has indisputably joined their ranks after decades of service to both our State and to our country. My own history with Senator COATS goes way back to when I was an intern in his Senate office. If he were on this floor today, Mr. Speaker, I am sure he would say that I was one of the worst interns he ever had. Nonetheless, he started my career in politics with that unpaid job that was one of the best experiences of my life. He has conservative leadership, and I know that he was anxious to get back to helping out the office and do whatever he could for the State of Indiana, however he could.

Since those many years ago, since those first observations that I have had of Senator COATS, he has gone from Senator, to U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and back to Senator again. It is a long and distinguished career full of dedication to right ideals and the desire to fight for what is best for all Hoosier families and what is best for Americans.

I appreciate all of the work, as we all do, that Senator COATS has done and the causes he has advocated for and for his counsel. As I have said, I don't know if he is actually going to be able to retire at this time, but whatever his desire, he deserves it.

I have no doubt that he will continue to represent the best interests of our State and this country even after his time in the Senate has come to an end. I would like to issue a heartfelt thank-you for all of his work, and I wish him my best on all his future endeavors.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will please join us all in wishing Indiana a happy birthday on this wonderful occasion of our 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Senator DAN COATS, a U.S. Army veteran, former Member of the House of Representatives, United States Ambassador to Germany and a great Hoosier. I've had the pleasure of serving with Senator COATS as a fellow member of the Indiana delegation since my first term in 2013. In fact, the first legislation that I introduced and got passed into law was a bill that I worked on with Senator COATS and his team, the Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act.

During his time in the Senate, he has been a passionate advocate for Hoosiers, working on policies that are focused on getting more Americans back to work and getting our economy back on track. His leadership will be missed, but I know that he and his wife Marsha will continue to do great things that make a difference for Hoosiers as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

Thank you, Senator COATS, for all of your work to represent our great state of Indiana, and best wishes as you embark on your next adventure.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the conference report accompanying the bill (S. 2943) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

ABROGATING OUR NATURAL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be our last day in formal session, actual session, of the year. There may be something coming up. I always worry about unanimous consent requests when nobody is here.

I know the administration likes to brag that it has been a good year for enforcing the border, but this story from Brooke Singman says:

The number of unaccompanied children crossing into the U.S. from Mexico nearly doubled this year citing from Border Patrol figures.

Hopefully, we will get the Trump administration moving as quickly as they indicate they intend to.

It is worth noting that this story came out from The Hill. Mark Hensch said that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind 9/11, says that in his view, immigration into the United States is al Qaeda's deadliest weapon against the United States. That is what he has apparently indicated.

A witness said:

From his perspective, the long war for Islamic domination wasn't going to be won in the streets with bombs and bullets and bloodshed. No, it would be won in the minds of the American people.

This is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's thinking. Thank God—literally, thank God—that President Obama has not released the mastermind as he has so many others who have contributed to the deaths of Americans.

But Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the 9/11 mastermind, said:

The terror attacks were good, but the "practical" way to defeat America was through immigration and by out-breeding non-Muslims.